

fentanyl into cocaine or pressing it into fake Xanax could be targeted effectively.

One California father who lost his 20-year-old daughter is pushing for prosecutors to file murder charges against those who supply fatal doses. Matt Capelouto's daughter Alexandra died from half a pill she bought from a dealer she found on social media in 2019, while home in Temecula, California, during a college break. She was told the pill was oxycodone, Capelouto said, but it contained fentanyl.

The dealer was charged with distributing fentanyl resulting in death, but he reached a plea deal on a lesser drug charge and will face up to 20 years in prison.

"It's not that arresting and convicting and putting these guys behind bars doesn't work," Capelouto said. "The fact is we don't do it enough to make a difference."

While some people killed by fentanyl have no idea they're taking it, others, particularly those with opioid use disorder, know it is or could be in the mix. But they may not know how much is in their drugs.

That was the case for Susan Ousterman's son Tyler Cordiero, who died at 24 in 2020 from a mixture that included fentanyl after years of using heroin and other opioids.

For nearly two years, Ousterman avoided going by the gas station near their home in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, where her son fatally overdosed. But in August, she went to leave two things there: naloxone, a drug used to reverse overdoses, and a poster advertising a hotline for people using drugs to call so the operator could call for help if they become unresponsive.

Ousterman is funneling her anger and sorrow into preventing other overdoses.

"Fentanyl is everywhere," she said. "You don't know what's in an unregulated drug supply. You don't know what you're taking. You're always taking the chance of dying every time."

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. FEENSTRA for his work on the legislation. We support the litigation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his work on this bill and indicate that we are pleased to, likewise, support and thank Congressman LAMB and the gentleman from Georgia, Senator OSSOFF, for introducing this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, as well, and to ensure that we provide really deep collaboration in our rural communities to help people who don't have access either to this kind of treatment, knowledge or prevention, and then, as I indicated, to medical care because hospitals are closing.

This is an important legislative initiative. I am hoping that we will support the Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act because it is bipartisan legislation. It is time for our Nation to face the increased overall overdoses and deaths in everyday communities large and small.

With more than 200 Americans dying of drug overdoses each day, Congress must act to support small and rural communities in addressing this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2796, the "Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act of 2022," is bipartisan

legislation that would establish a pilot program for rural communities within the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program.

The pilot program would make grants to rural areas to implement community response programs in order to reduce opioid overdose deaths. These community response programs would involve collaborations between public safety, public health, and behavioral health systems. The pilot programs would seek to identify gaps in current treatment availability and establish treatment programs to reduce opioid overdoses in rural areas.

Data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics indicates that in 2021 there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths. The data also shows overdose deaths involving opioids increased from an estimated 70,029 in 2020 to 80,816 in 2021.

With more than 200 Americans still dying of drug overdoses each day, it is even more important that we pass this critical legislation. In my hometown of Houston, overdose deaths have been exacerbated by strained access to treatment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Opioid overdose deaths have increased throughout the state of Texas, rising from 4,154 deaths in 2020 to 4,831 deaths in 2021.

S. 2796 would enable local governments and community organizations to develop and expand initiatives targeting rural and low resourced communities. Eligible applicants of the grant program would be required to have a documented history of providing services to rural communities or regions highly impacted by substance use disorder. The programs supported by this legislation would be able to identify gaps in treatment access for rural communities, leverage federal resources to expand treatment options, and ensure rural and remote communities are not forgotten in our efforts to address the ongoing impact of opioid abuse disorder across the country.

Building on the successful Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, this bipartisan bill would expand it to include a pilot program targeting rural communities.

I want to thank Congressman LAMB and Senator OSSOFF for introducing this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2796.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING RESOURCES, OFFICERS, AND TECHNOLOGY TO ERADICATE CYBER THREATS TO OUR CHILDREN ACT OF 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (S. 4834) to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4834

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats to Our Children Act of 2022" or the "PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 107(a)(10) of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (34 U.S.C. 21117(a)(10)) is amended by striking "2022" and inserting "2024".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 4834.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4834, the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022, a critical piece of bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, or ICAC, which has worked tirelessly for 14 years to protect our children from online predators.

It is no exaggeration to say the internet today is one of the most dangerous places for our Nation's children, many of whom spend hours online each day. Predators use social media and other online resources to groom and entice children to commit sexual acts.

The internet makes it easy for sex and labor traffickers to gain clandestine access to children and teens, recruit them into their organization, and exploit them. The internet is also the primary vehicle for distributing child sex abuse material and committing criminal acts of extortion against minors. It also provides an open forum for cyberbullying and online harassment, which can lead victims of such conduct to withdraw, become depressed, and even commit suicide.

To combat these monstrous crimes and to protect our youth from exploitation, ICAC task forces work with Federal, State, and local law enforcement to develop an effective holistic response to cybercrimes against children. Their programs include forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education.

This network is made up of 61 separate forces, three of which are in my home State of Texas. These task forces are created and authorized by the original PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, which expired this past September at the end of the fiscal year.

Online threats to children and the need for ICAC task forces are only growing. Between 2008 and 2021, the number of these arrests rose from 2,500 to more than 10,000 each year. This agency's work resulted in more than 137,000 investigations and 90,300 forensic exams in 2021 alone.

Earlier this year, the southern Texas task force received significant funding, its first, authorized by the PROTECT Our Children Act allowing it to provide substantial investigative, prosecutorial, and victim services and to utilize tips from the ICAC database and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a longstanding agency that has been fighting for missing and exploited children to identify and rescue child victims.

The work of these task forces nationwide will not be able to continue unless we fund this critical law enforcement initiative. It is, therefore, essential that we reauthorize the ICAC program by passing the bipartisan PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022. The act would extend funding for these task forces and programs through 2024.

Without this crucial legislation, our children will remain vulnerable to those who seek to exploit and hurt them in the most horrific of ways with the ease and anonymity that the internet provides.

I commend my colleague, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her work on the PROTECT Our Children Act as far back as 2008, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 4834 reauthorizes the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction for an additional 2 years.

In 2008, Congress passed the PROTECT Our Children Act, which required the attorney general to develop and implement a National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction.

The PROTECT Our Children Act formally authorized the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces. These task forces support State and local law enforcement agencies in combating online enticement of children and the proliferation of online child sexual abuse material.

Since its inception, nearly 90,000 individuals have been arrested because of complaints reviewed by these task forces. They not only put the dangerous criminals behind bars, but they also provide outreach to communities to spread awareness about and, hopefully, prevent internet crimes against kids.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD: "Houston ICAC Task Force Records Nine Arrests for Child Exploitation" showing that there is true evidence that this program works.

[From the Texas News, July 7, 2022]

HOUSTON ICAC TASK FORCE RECORDS 9
ARRESTS FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION

(By Amy Gordon)

During the weeks of June 2022, the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office (MCDAO) Cybercrimes Against Children (ICAC) Division, part of the Houston Metro ICAC Task Force, conducted a multi-day interagency operation targeting individuals who were actively children sought sexual exploitation via the Internet in Montgomery County. Multiple law enforcement agencies were involved in the operation including the Montgomery County Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Texas Department of Public Safety, Houston Police Department, Conroe Police Department, Montgomery County Pct. 1, pt. 2, pt. 3 and pt. 5 Police Departments, Humble Police Department, Ft. Bend County Sheriff's Office, Missouri City Police Department and the Spring Branch Independent School District Police Department.

The Houston Metro ICAC Taskforce is part of a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing over 4,500 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies dedicated to investigating and prosecuting those who attempt to sexually exploit children via the Internet.

During this multi-day operation, the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office ICAC section, moderated by Constable Ryan Gable and Montgomery County Constable's Office Precinct 3 deputies, conducted a proactive chat operation in southern Montgomery County. Task Force members also obtained an arrest warrant for Thomas J. Manno of Clarion County, Pennsylvania, and provided local authorities with essential information to execute a search warrant on his home.

Task Force members contributed to the following arrests during the operation:

Thomas J. Manno—39—Shippensburg, Pennsylvania—Promotion of Child Pornography (F2)

Robert Clarence Clayton—27—Channelview, Texas—Online Ad by a Minor (F2)

Isaac Anthony Marino—30—Houston, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2)

Francisco Xavier Garza—29—Spring, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2) // Possibly with intent to supply—Methamphetamine (F1)

Elijah Charles Lewis—24—Houston, Texas—Online Solicitation by a Minor (F2)

Ahsan Shah—36—Houston, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2)

Lawrence Clayton Hopkins—55—Baytown, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2)

Edward Stewart Geddes—42—Houston, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2) // Evidence tampering (F3)

Clinton Brian Harvey—44—Dickinson, Texas—Soliciting a Minor Online (F3) // Unlawful Carrying of a Gun (MA)

The above accused are still under investigation and additional charges may be brought at a later date. All accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

During the investigation of Lawrence Clayton Hopkins, officers learned that Hopkins

may have worked as a youth pastor in Midlothian, College Station and Baytown, Texas prior to his arrest.

During the investigation of Clinton Brian Harvey, officers learned that Harvey worked as an officer at the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention Center.

As our children are more exposed to the internet than ever before, the ICAC section of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and the Houston Metro ICAC Task Force encourage parents to be diligent in monitoring their children's online activities and raise concerns with law enforcement agencies and the National Center for to report Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Concerned parents and guardians should contact local law enforcement in the event of an emergency by dialing 911. Parents and guardians can also contact NCMEC at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or through their website at CyberTipline.org for more information and resources.

Lt. Michael Atkins, Montgomery County Constable's Office Precinct 3, shared: "The Internet provides criminals with an often unsupervised avenue to exploit child sacrifice. As parents, we need to carefully monitor our children's online activities and talk to them about the dangers they may face online."

Shanna Redwine (MCDAO), Head of Special Victims Division, stated: "We know the internet can be a dangerous place for children. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office are committed to making it legally dangerous for adults who seek to harm them. We ask parents and carers to support us in this effort by closely monitoring children and speaking with them about online risks, of which there are many."

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to this legislation passing. Again, I emphasize that anything to protect our children is crucial.

Mr. Speaker, there are thousands of children exploited on the internet each and every day. As the global online community continues to grow, so do the very real dangers facing our Nation's children.

I do want to state that Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ has really developed this legislation and worked very hard on it. We have applauded her work starting in 2008. This will be a major, if you will, addition and asset to fighting the scourge that goes against our innocent children.

So we have developed a vast and effective program that has continued to evolve and improve our fight against online child exploitation. Let's continue this program. We cannot allow this program to die. We must pass the PROTECT Our Children Act to reauthorize these task forces and to allow them to continue their brave and crucial work that keeps our children safe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) who has worked so hard on this legislation since 2008.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill before the House today because at this very moment, thousands of children are waiting to be saved.

The internet can be a dangerous neighborhood for anyone, but especially vulnerable children. The ever-expanding reach of the internet has

fueled an exploding multibillion-dollar market for child pornography.

Tragically, this market exploits the graphic images that result from the horrific sexual assault of more children. The pandemic only exacerbated the problem, as our world shifts more online.

But these are not just heinous online images, they are crime scene photos created by a thriving industry that uses children as sexual commodities.

Almost 15 years ago, I introduced the Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats to Our Children Act of 2007. With the support of Mr. JORDAN at a House Judiciary hearing on that bill, we heard from a very brave young woman, Alicia Kozakiewicz. She was abducted by an internet predator at just 13, held captive in his dungeon basement, and sexually tortured for 4 days.

The FBI found Alicia because the Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, or ICAC, had the technology to lift the digital fingerprints of this perpetrator's crimes.

They were able to discover the location where he held her captive, chained to the floor, connected to a collar around her neck. Internet crimes officers tracked the IP address back to his door, and literally rescued her from death.

I remember her testimony like it was yesterday. It moved many of the members of that committee, including myself, to tears.

In the 20 years since her abduction and torture, Alicia still shares her personal nightmare to help protect other young people.

Over that next year, we learned a lot about these offenders: who they are, how they operate, and most important, where they are. We saw detailed law enforcement maps that showed the locations of hundreds of thousands of sexual predators, 5 percent of whom had actual child victims waiting to be rescued.

It was a truly harrowing environment they described.

And Congress acted.

With then-Senator Joe Biden as my Senate partner, we passed legislation establishing the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, or ICAC, a specialized group of law enforcement officials dedicated to the protection of children.

The task forces grew from 42 to 61, and arrests and child rescues doubled. They doubled. Literally thousands more predators were apprehended and children rescued. An untold number of sexual assaults were prevented.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the PROTECT Our Children Act, the bipartisan legislation that I introduced this week with Senator CORNYN, and Representatives CHABOT,

KUSTER, and RESCHENTHALER reauthorizes the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, the national network of coordinated law enforcement task forces investigating and prosecuting those who sexually exploit our most vulnerable constituents—our children.

According to estimates, half of the arrests made by ICAC teams led us to the door of a hands-on offender, and thus, a child waiting to be rescued.

We must make the protection of these children the focus of all of our efforts. Please think about these precious children being victimized. If you are a parent, God forbid, it was your own child.

Let's give these ICAC teams the resources they need to rescue as many as possible.

An impressive and deeply troubling investigation by The New York Times described the forces arrayed against these ICAC teams as an "insatiable criminal underworld," and one in which tech companies are not always able or totally willing to confront.

□ 1600

But if we empower these ICACs with today's reauthorization, thousands more innocent children will be protected from these unspeakable crimes. We owe them that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their indulgence.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support S. 4834, PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4834, the "PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022," a critical piece of bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize the Internet Crimes Against Children task force program, or "ICAC," which has worked tirelessly for 14 years to protect our children from online predators.

It is no exaggeration to say the internet is today one of the most dangerous places for our nation's children, many of whom spend hours each day online. Predators use social media and other online resources to groom and entice children to commit sexual acts. The internet makes it easy for sex and labor traffickers to gain clandestine access to children and teens, recruit them into their organizations, and exploit them.

The internet is also the primary vehicle for distributing child sex abuse material and committing criminal acts of sextortion against minors. It also provides an open forum for cyberbullying and online harassment, which can lead victims of such conduct to withdraw, become depressed, and even commit suicide.

To combat these monstrous crimes and protect our youth from exploitation, ICAC task forces work with federal, state, and local law enforcement to develop an effective, holistic response to cybercrimes against children. Their programs include forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education.

The ICAC network is made up of 61 separate task forces—three of which are in my home state of Texas. These ICAC task forces were created and authorized by the original PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, which

expired this past September, at the end of the fiscal year.

Yet online threats to children, and the need for ICAC's task forces, are only growing. Between 2008 and 2021, the number of ICAC arrests rose from 2,500 to more than 10,000 each year. ICAC's work resulted in more than 137,000 investigations and 90,300 forensic exams in 2021 alone.

Earlier this year, the Southern Texas ICAC task force received significant funding—its first—authorized by the PROTECT Our Children Act, allowing it to provide substantial investigative, prosecutorial, and victim-centered services, and to utilize tips from the national ICAC database, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to identify and rescue child victims.

But the work of the task force, and that of the other ICAC task forces nationwide, will not be able to continue unless we fund this critical law enforcement initiative. It is, therefore, essential that we reauthorize the ICAC program by passing the bipartisan PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022.

The Act would extend funding for ICAC task forces and programs through 2024. Without this crucial legislation, our children will remain vulnerable to those who seek to exploit and hurt them in the most horrific of ways, with the ease and anonymity the internet provides.

I commend my colleague, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her work on the PROTECT Our Children Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4834.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PATENTS FOR HUMANITY ACT OF 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5796) to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish a competition to award certificates that can be redeemed to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Patents for Humanity Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. AWARD OF CERTIFICATES TO ACCELERATE CERTAIN MATTERS AT THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

(a) AWARD.—Chapter 2 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: